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HEY, MISTER
DOWN-AND-OUT!

AFFIRM YOUR
BELIEF IN THE
INSTITUTIONS
THAT SUPPORT
YOU.

DONATE
TO YOUR LOCAL
CHURCH OR
SYNAGOGUE.

START
A SCHOOL
SAFETY
CAMPAIGN.

LET
OTHERS KNOW
YOU CARE.

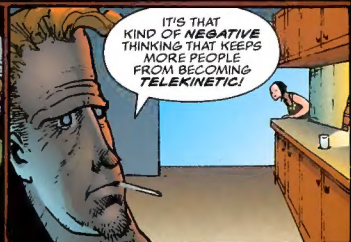
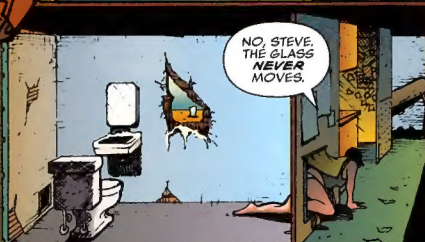
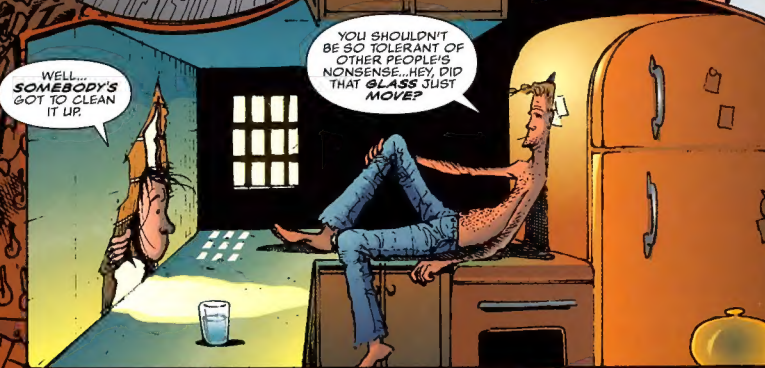
CRUNCH

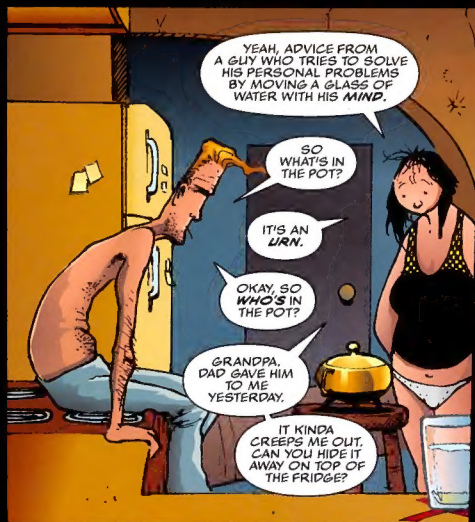
TAKE THE
RISK OF
CLOSENESS.

ADOPT
A PET

REMEMBER,
SELF-DOUBT
SEEMS MORE
OVERWHELMING
WHEN YOU'RE
TIRED.

OTHER PEOPLE'S CRAP





3 A.M.

ARRRRHHH!

STEVE...

GNAHH,
I DON'T FEEL
SO GOOD,
SARA.

OH, GEEZ,
GET UP STEVE. I
GOTTA GET YOU
TO A DOCTOR.
I CAN'T CARRY
YOU MYSELF. I
NEED HELP...

OH
GREAT.
WHAT
NOW?

SARA,
IT'S ME!

NORBERT!

NO...
THE MAXX!
I NEED TO
TALK TO YOU,
SARA.

I'LL CARRY
YOUR FRIEND TO THE
TRIAGE-CLINIC. I
APPEARED IN THE NICK
OF TIME BECAUSE
I AM...

**THE
MAXX!**

GNAUUH.



NORBERT,
IF YOU SAY
"MAXX"
ONE MORE
TIME...

BUT I AM
HIM. I LIVED IN
PARADISE WITH
A BEAUTIFUL
PRINCESS...




...AND AN
UGLY YELLOW WYRM
NAMED IAGO. BUT
THE WORM WAS SMALL
AND HAD NO POWER.
NOW...

MAN,
I COULDN'T
FIND STEVE'S
GINGRICH-
STAMPS...

SNOORF




I BET
THEY WON'T
TREAT HIM
WITHOUT
THEM...




THE EVIL
IAGO IS LOOSE
IN THIS WORLD.
HE'S GOT A
LIST...


IT WOULD
BE SO NICE IF
ONE PERSON
I KNEW WASN'T
NUTS!



...AND HE'S
CHECKING IT
TWICE! I HAVE
TO STOP HIM
BEFORE...



IF YOU TURN
OUT TO BE A BUM
I HIT IN AN ACCIDENT
I'VE FORGOTTEN
ABOUT, I'M REALLY
GONNA BE
PISSED.



I AM NOT
HUMAN. I AM
AN EQUINE
ELEMENTAL...
A HORSE.

UH-HUH.


WHUMP



YOU
DON'T
BELIEVE
ME.



SIGH




WAIT A
MINUTE! YOU MEAN
I COULD JUST
PULL THIS HOOD
BACK, AND YOU'D
BE A HORSE
UNDER HERE?



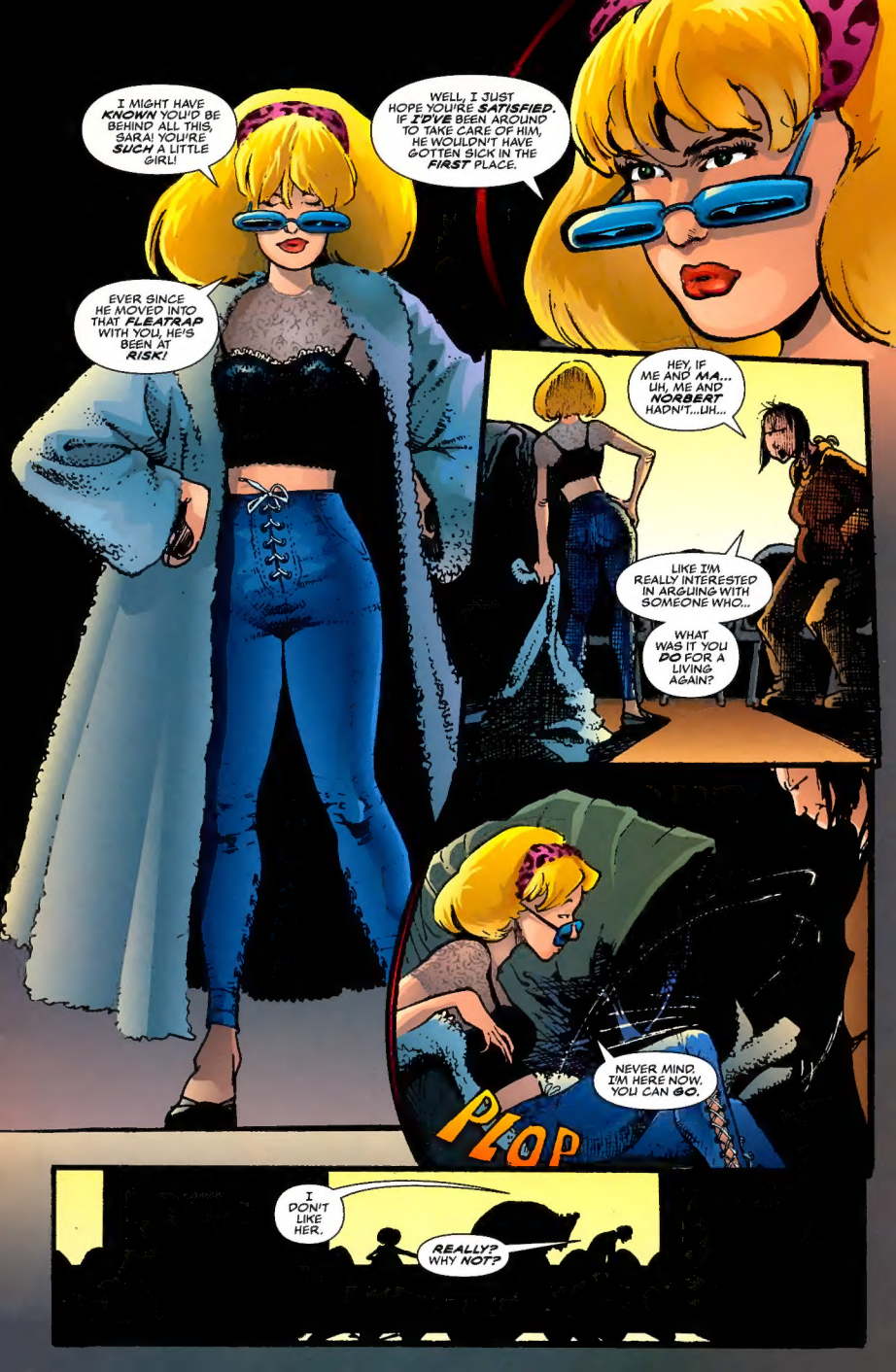
SARA!
WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE
TO MY
STEVE?!

NO, WAIT!
YOU MUSTN'T SEE
MY TRUE FACE
YET, YOU DON'T
BELIEVE.

RIIIGGGHHT!



SKYE.
GREAT, LIKE I REALLY
NEEDED ANOTHER
PROCTOLOGICAL
EXAM RIGHT
ABOUT NOW.



I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN YOU'D BE BEHIND ALL THIS, SARAI! YOU'RE SUCH A LITTLE GIRL!

WELL, I JUST HOPE YOU'RE SATISFIED. IF I'D BEEN AROUND TO TAKE CARE OF HIM, HE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN SICK IN THE FIRST PLACE.

EVER SINCE HE MOVED INTO THAT FLEAPTRAP WITH YOU, HE'S BEEN AT RISK!

HEY IF ME AND MA... UH, ME AND NORBERT HADN'T...UH...

LIKE I'M REALLY INTERESTED IN ARGUING WITH SOMEONE WHO...

WHAT WAS IT YOU DO FOR A LIVING AGAIN?

NEVER MIND. I'M HERE NOW. YOU CAN GO.

I DON'T LIKE HER.

REALLY? WHY NOT?



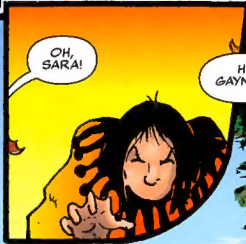
I DON'T KNOW WHY I KEEP COMING BACK HERE TO TALK TO DAD... BUT I HAD TO GET AWAY FROM THAT NORBERT CREEP.



GOD, IT'S HER. THAT GAYNOR CHICK DAD LIVES WITH.



MAYBE I CAN GET AWAY BEFORE...



OH, SARA!

HI, GAYNOR.

I JUST WANTED TO ASK DAD SOMETHING, BUT IT WASN'T IMPORTANT...



ONE DAY I'M GOING TO MURDER THAT MAN. IF YOUR FATHER LEAVES ONE MORE KLEENEX IN HIS POCKETS...

I KNOW, MY ROOMMATE DOES THE SAME THING.



YOU DO YOUR ROOMMATE'S LAUNDRY?

UH... YEAH, SORT OF.

IT'S OKAY.
IT'S NOTHING TO BE
ASHAMED OF.

ALTHOUGH WE
COMPLAIN, MAYBE WE'RE
THE TYPE THAT SECRETLY
DRAWS COMFORT FROM
TAKING CARE OF
OTHER PEOPLE.

UH,
RIGHT.

LISTEN, GAYNOR...
I DON'T KNOW YOU VERY
WELL, BUT THERE'S SOME
STUFF ABOUT MY DAD YOU
NEED TO KNOW.

HONEY,
THIS ISN'T ALL ABOUT
THAT EVIL-SORCERER-
RAPING-AND-KILLING-
AND-LOSING-HIS-
HEAD-THING, IS IT?

MY DEAR,
I KNOW
ALL THAT.

YOU
DO?

OF COURSE,
ARTIE TOLD ME
YEARS AGO.

HE WAS
MENTALLY
ILL...

SO HE'S
DUPED YOU
TOO?

EVERYBODY
TAKES HIS SIDE!
DOESN'T IT
BOTHER YOU WHAT
HE DID TO THOSE
WOMEN?

I--

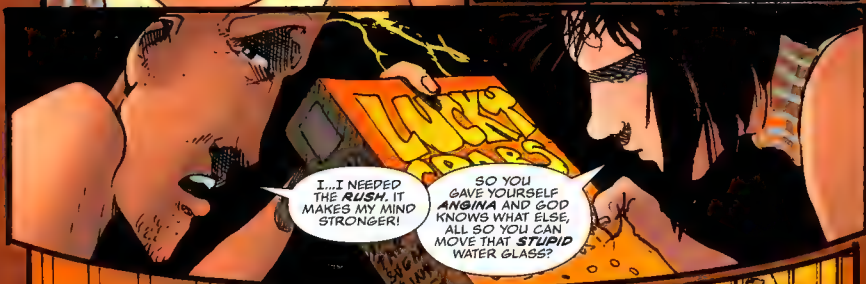
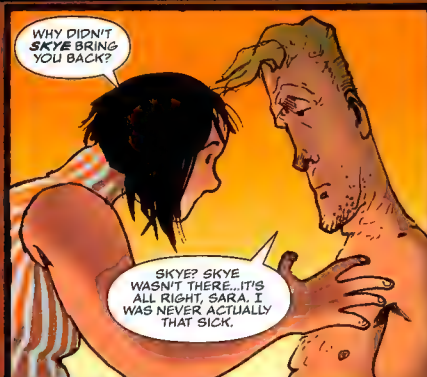
LOOK,
YOU DON'T
GET IT,
YOU'RE IN
DANGER!

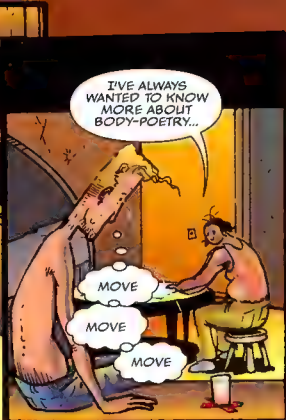
HE'LL
DESTROY
YOU TOO!
I KNOW
HIM!

LISTEN TO
YOURSELF, CHILD, FOR
THE LAST EIGHT YEARS
HE'S WORKED WITH
ABUSED WOMEN AND
CHILDREN. THAT'S
HOW I MET HIM!

SARA--?
ARE YOU
OKAY?

THIS
COULDN'T GET
ANY @##%&*%
WEIRDER.





EXPLODING Fairies

RESPECT THE
VALUE OF EVERY PERSON
YOU MEET, NO MATTER
HOW HUMBLE.


SEND OUT A
LITTLE PART OF
YOURSELF WITH
A KIND WORD
OR SMILE.

MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.

WHENEVER
NEGATIVE THOUGHTS
ARISE, LET THEM UP.
IT'S OKAY.


NOT FEARING
NEGATIVE THOUGHTS
IS THE RECIPE TO
SUCCESS.

BON
APPETIT.



NEGATIVE
THOUGHTS ARE LIKE
BAD FAIRIES WHICH
MUST BE FED TO
STAY ALIVE.

STARVE
THOSE NEGATIVE
THOUGHTS!



WITHOUT
ANYTHING TO EAT,
THEY'LL JUST
FLOAT UP AND
MAGICALLY
DISAPPEAR.

SPLASH



AND REMEMBER,
REMOVE DANGEROUS HAZARDS
IN THE WORKPLACE. CARING FOR
OTHERS' SAFETY IS A SIGN THAT
YOU CARE FOR THEM!



I ended up treating Steve like a pet not a person. What's wrong with me? I'm no better than

CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK
CLICK



SKYE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOU'VE BEEN DUMPED, OR DIDN'T YOU KNOW IT? YOU CAN'T JUST DITCH SOMEONE AND EXPECT THEM TO FORGET IT!

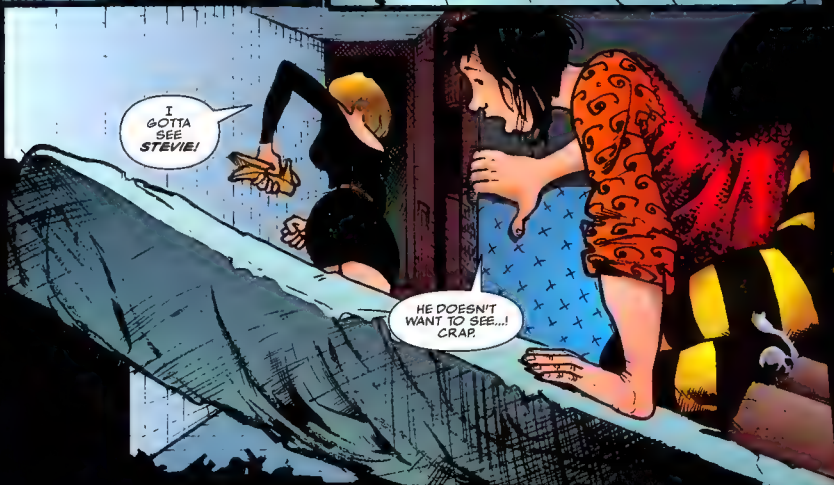
ANOTHER NEO-LUPPITE MANIFESTO, SARA?



GET OFF THE BED, SKYE! I'M WORKING HERE!

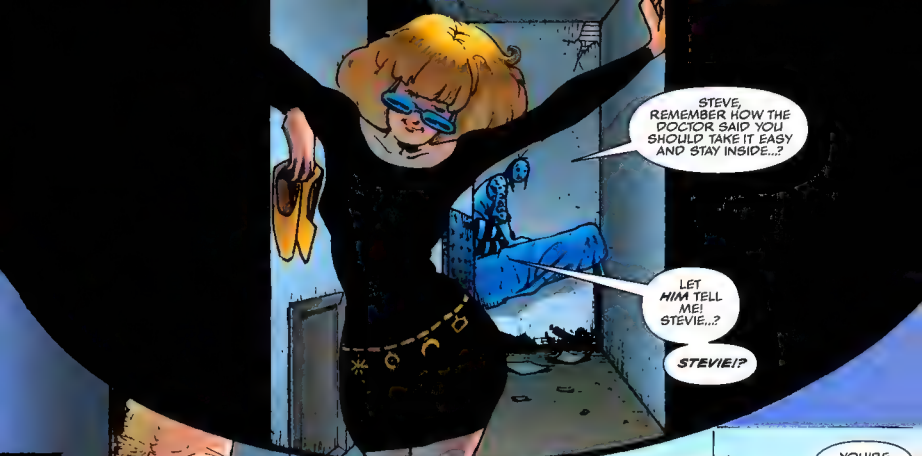
"WORKING" IMPLIES WRITING SOMETHING FOR ACTUAL MONEY.

DID I MENTION I'M BOOKED FOR THREE MORE WEEKS AT THE REEFER?



I GOTTA SEE STEVIE!

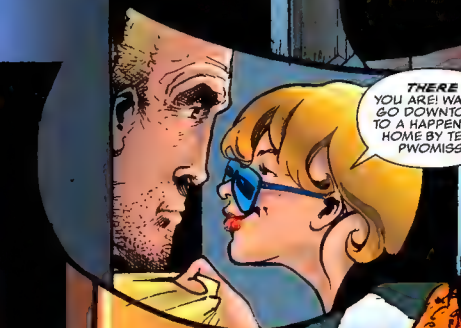
HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE...! CRAP.



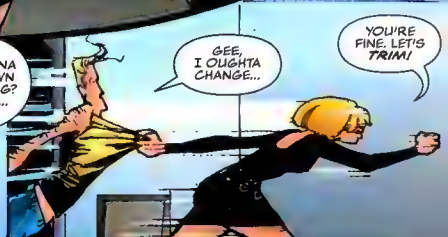
STEVE
REMEMBER HOW THE
DOCTOR SAID YOU
SHOULD TAKE IT EASY
AND STAY INSIDE...?

LET
HIM TELL
ME!
STEVIE...?

STEVIE!?



THERE
YOU ARE! WANNA
GO DOWNTOWN
TO A HAPPENING?
HOME BY TEN...
PWOMISS!



GEE,
I OUGHTA
CHANGE...

YOU'RE
FINE. LET'S
TRIM!



WELL, I
GOTTA BE BACK...
I PROMISED TO
CLEAN UP AND
I GOTTA LOOK
FOR A...

WELL, MAYBE
JUST FOR AN HOUR...
WE'RE GOING TO
DRENK'S, SARA!



He doesn't
care if she breaks
his heart. And
she sure doesn't
care.

SLAM

So what's my
problem?



DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP. I GUESS I'LL GET TO **KNOW** YOU, NO MATTER HOW PERSONALLY PAINFUL AND **REPELLANT** IT IS FOR ME.

AND IF YOU EVER HURT GAYNOR, I'LL KILL YOU.

YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT EVERYONE SNOOWED, BUT I'M ONTO YOU. YOU CAN'T BUY YOUR WAY BACK INTO SOCIETY WITH THIS "HELPING ABUSED WOMEN" CRAP.

SOUNDS FAIR ENOUGH.



WHY DON'T YOU RELAX. HELP ME BAIT MY HOOKS.

OH, SURE, AND I SUPPOSE YOU'VE GOT A YELLOW WORM NAMED **1400** IN THERE, TOO.

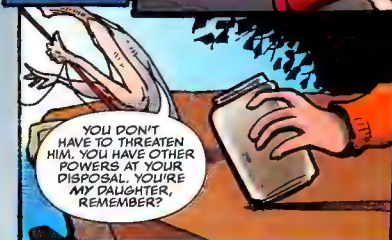
HUH? THESE AREN'T WORMS. THEY'RE **BUGS!**

THIS ONE, FOR EXAMPLE, IS NAMED **MATTOX**.



HE'S A **SMART** LITTLE FELLOW.

HELP ME!



BACK AT HOME.

SARA...SKYE LEFT WITH HER EX-HUSBAND...WHO PUSHED ME OUT OF A WINDOW...I THINK MY LEG'S BROKEN...

STEVE!

I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T REPLACED ME WITH A NEW ROOMMATE YET...SHE HAD ME EAT FIVE CANDY BARS IN THIRTY SECONDS TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...I CAN'T SEE...

HE MUST BE NEAR CLUB DREK'S...

SARA!

OH, STEVE!

WHEN I WENT BLIND, SKYE JUST LAUGHED. SHE LAUGHED, SARA.

HOW'S MY LEG?

IT'S THE FIRST FLOOR, STEVE. YOU'LL LIVE.

I DON'T THINK SHE CARES ABOUT ME AT ALL. SHE'S JUST USING ME FOR MY POWERS.

THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE, SARA. YOU'RE MY ONLY FRIEND. ONLY YOU UNDERSTAND.

SHUT UP, STEVE.

YOU'LL SEE... ONE DAY THAT GLASS WILL MOVE, AND EVERYTHING EVERYONE SAYS ABOUT ME WILL BE WRONG.



MY ONLY
CHANCE AT
HAPPINESS IS
MOVING
OBJECTS WITH
MY MIND.

EVERYBODY IN MY LIFE
SEEMS SO LAME. GAYNOR PUTS UP
WITH GONE'S LIES, GONE PUTS UP WITH
MY ABUSE, STEVE PUTS UP WITH SKYE,
AND I PUT UP WITH STEVE. BUT
THE QUESTION IS, WHY?



WHY AM I
AFRAID TO LET
ANYONE TAKE
CARE OF ME?



JIMMY...




GOD! I
HAVEN'T THOUGHT
ABOUT HIM FOR
YEARS! HE WAS THAT
KID IN HIGH SCHOOL
THAT HUMILIATED
ME!

I REMEMBER
I SWORE I'D NEVER
OPEN UP TO ANYONE
AGAIN... BUT IT WAS
TOO LATE. MY SICK
MIND HAD ALREADY
LEARNED THE LESSON
THAT HUMILIATION IS
THE PRICE OF
LOVE.

IT'S LIKE
SOMEHOW PART OF
ME ACTUALLY BELIEVES
THAT I DON'T
DESERVE TO FEEL
INTIMACY UNLESS
I PUT UP WITH
SOMEONE'S CRAP.

THAT'S
THE SIGN I
STUCK ON
MY OWN
BACK.





...SO THEN I
CALLED YOU, AND JUST
BEFORE I BLACKED OUT,
I THOUGHT I SAW A BIG
YELLOW BANANA SLUG
LEARNING OVER ME...
TELLING ME THAT THE
GLASS WAS HALF FULL,
BUT I COULDN'T
HAVE, HUH?

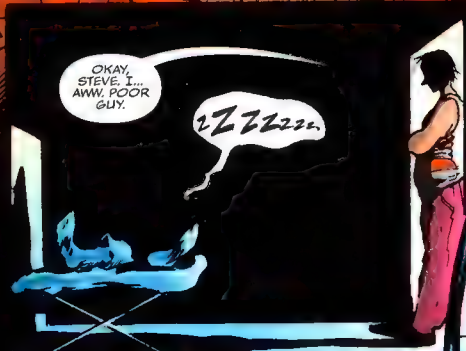
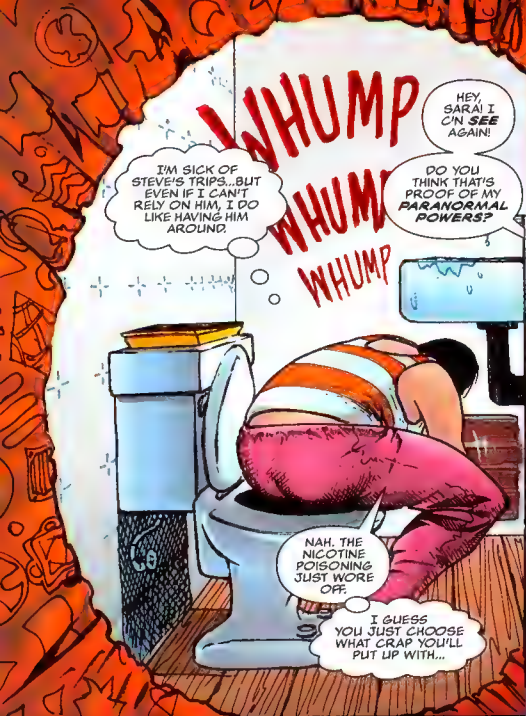
NO,
STEVE. YOU
JUST MADE
IT...

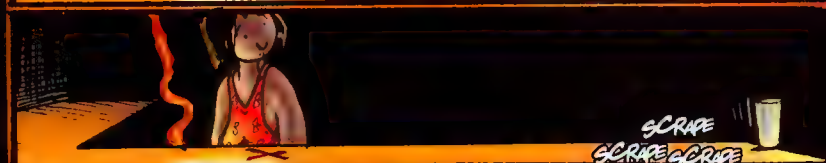
UM...STEVE?
THIS BANANA SLUG
WASN'T CARRYING
A LIST, WAS
HE?

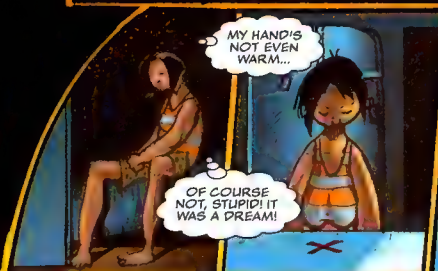
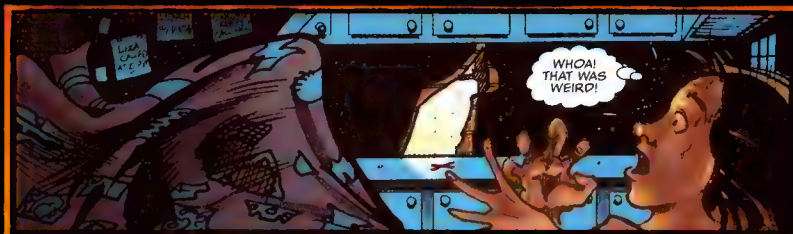
I DIDN'T
NOTICE, IS IT
IMPORTANT?

PROBLY
NOT...COME ON
LET'S GET YOU
HOME.

EXIT









Dear Sam,

Wow. It took me a couple of readings before I got "it" but now that I do, I like it. A lot. You and Bill deserve a big hand for this 20-issue masterpiece. This is quite the accomplishment, too, because most comics that I put a lot into usually end up getting cancelled. Thanks for not succumbing to such bad luck.

And that's what everything is about, isn't it? Survival. Maxx literally survived being hit by a car. Sarah survived the revelation that Gone was her father. Julie survived the whole experience.

And things weren't all serious, either. You managed to include some great bits of humor, too. The whole revelation that the Hooley can't see was splendid.

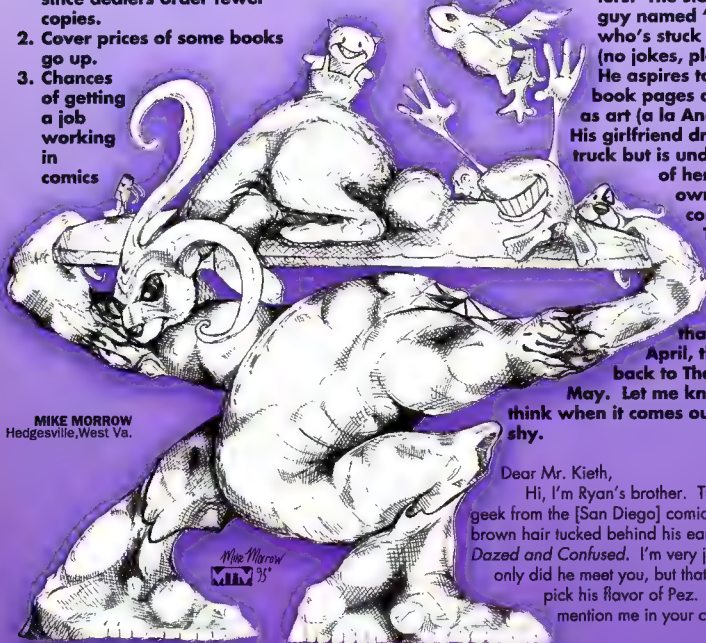
You're the man!

John R. Shearer
North Olmsted, OH

I won't lie to you—things are lean and hungry right now in this business, and just surviving is on every artist's mind. So what, you say—what does this mean to me?

Well, among other things:

- 1. It's harder to get the books you want, since dealers order fewer copies.**
- 2. Cover prices of some books go up.**
- 3. Chances of getting a job working in comics**



MIKE MORROW
Hedgesville, West Va.

Mike Morrow
35

are slimmer, since fewer books/companies means more seasoned pros need work.

Like everybody else, Maxx has been hit, but we're still afloat. I'll make you a deal: I'll keep trying to tell the best stories I can, if you keep supporting my efforts. You may not think that this one book you bought makes a difference, but it does—especially with the way things are going these days. **THANXX!**

By the way, Bill and I did a new story that'll be out in April. It's #1 in a series called "Friends of The Maxx" that will appear from time to time. This issue is twice the usual Maxx length—48 pages instead of 20 or so—but not twice the price (no small feat—I mean, feat...). We may lose money on this, but I don't give a crap. This is another way to say thanks to you for supporting The Maxx as long as you have.

Now don't panic, but Maxx is only on the first and last pages, to interview the characters. The story is about a guy named "Dude Japan" who's stuck selling organs (no jokes, please) in a mall. He aspires to paint color-book pages and sell them as art (a la Andy Warhol). His girlfriend drives a tow truck but is under the thumb of her father, who owns the tow truck company.

There's also an inflatable doll in the picture...

Anyway, that'll be out in April, then we'll be back to The Maxx (#24) in May. Let me know what you think when it comes out. Don't be shy.

Dear Mr. Kieth,

Hi, I'm Ryan's brother. That's right, the geek from the [San Diego] comic con with long brown hair tucked behind his ears like that kid in *Dazed and Confused*. I'm very jealous that not only did he meet you, but that he also got you to pick his flavor of Pez. Maybe you could mention me in your comic so I can even

up the score with my brother who brags and brags about it all day long. Say hi to Bill for me.

Sincerely,
Eli

Maybe this'll even up the score.

Dear Mr. Kieth,

Will Julie's kid have the same Outback? And if so, will the original Maxx return to help him?

Adam Hendricks
Hidden Hills, CA

Remember—everybody has their own Outback.

Dear Sam Kieth,

I didn't think I would ever see anything fun and intelligent on the tube again! The Maxx is fabulous! I didn't realize a comic existed until my boyfriend brought it home one evening. Bravo!

Then I happened upon Steve Purcell's "Sam and Max Hit the Road," a CD Rom game, and had a sudden flash of inspiration. Hope you like it.

Sincerely,
Paula E. Hill
Philadelphia, PA

Cool artwork—sorry not to print it.

People have written to ask about this game and if it's connected to Maxx. It isn't. But in the trivia department: long before either Maxx or Sam and Max were created, Steve was pencilling a marvel book and he offered me my first Marvel inking job (which never actually happened). Ain't irony a bitch?

Dear Sam,

I've never had anything bad to say about what people have written in Maxx Traxx. But I just read Chris Olson's first letter in Maxx #20. I was appalled, well not appalled, just stunned. I was stunned because he said that people who discovered Maxx because he was on MTV aren't real Maxxheads. Well, ha ha to him. Not everyone who was introduced to Maxx on MTV was a bully in high school and thinks "The Real World" is high drama. I think that it's great that more people can become Maxx lovers through the tube. In fact, I was introduced to The Maxx through MTV. I don't even watch MTV normally—I hate it. I thought that it was great to have the 'toon so more people could be exposed to The Maxx and, concurrently, identify with him.

LOVE MAXX



RENÉ PFITZNER
Melbourne, Australia

René



So kudos to all the people who found Maxx that way. You're still Maxxheads if you want to be and can identify with other Maxxheads at least a little bit.

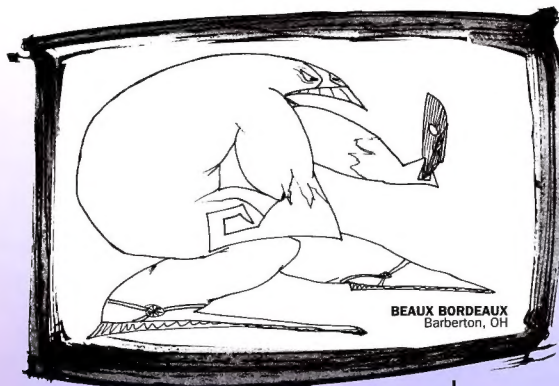
Another thing that disturbs me about Chris' letter was that he seemed to contradict himself with what he said earlier in the very poetic little bit at the end of Traxx. How can I rejoice in being a misfit knowing that people who "listen to Bowie or really dig Blade Runner" are considered better than me just because I found out about Maxx on MTV. Chris is expressing that we all fit in because of Maxx, that Maxx makes all us freaks join together, but he previously stated that if you found Maxx on MTV then you weren't a true Maxxhead. Does he make sense?

Thanks for letting me bitch,
but I do have a point to make,
Melissa K.
Brookfield, NH

Dear Sam,

In response to Chris Olson's letter in issue #20—Amen. When I read Chris' letter, I almost cried, and I don't cry easily. Hell, I didn't even cry when my uncle died. But Chris, you said it all in that letter. The Maxx is so much more than a comic book. The characters in The Maxx are a lot like most





Maxxheads—misfits, and I am no exception. We get to see these characters, these misfits, go through the grim reality of life, but that's not all. The Maxx has its humorous side also. Some of the letters you guys print are hilarious and some of the characters like The Hooly and Mr. Gone's head (what's left of it) are even funnier.

The Maxx even lets us misfits listen and respond to fellow misfit Maxxheads through Maxx Traxx and Head to Head. The Maxx is a place for us misfits to escape reality. And what's wrong with that, really. We all need someplace to go away to...some place we can be the people we should've been instead of the people we've become. Some safe place where we can escape reality. Hide. "I know there are things to hide from" (issue #5).

Keep up the great work,
Maxxhead and misfit,
Adam Martray
Alexandria, VA

Sam and Company,
Cow and Chicken
RULES! Yo es super-cow. Tell
Dave to definitely make this an
ongoing 'toon.

Sean Sanberger
Noblesville, IN

**Yup Yup—it'll be on the
Cartoon Network in the
future. Watch for it.**

Dear Sam,

If a lamp fell on Maxx,
why in the past have you
said he found a mask in the
mud?

Sincerely,
Jay Nelson
Auburndale, FL

**The lamp was in the
mud.**

Mr. Kieth and fellow Maxxheads,
I'm here to address Jason Quane
[see issue #20], and any other
Maxxheads out there who might be
feeling the same way as him. I've
already written him a personal letter
(and I hope lots of other folks have,
too), so this is for the afore-mentioned
others who may be out there. I'll even
quote myself from Jason's personal let-
ter:

A person's life is a wheel, and it
rolls through many strange lands.
Some of them are barren and empty,
and some of them are so full and
beautiful that it almost hurts the sen-
ses. The thing to do during the empty
times is to focus on yourself. Find
those things that you know and are
good at, or those things about your-

self you wish to improve, and apply yourself to them
with ferocity. As you get better at them, you will feel
better about yourself and others—hopefully of the
opposite sex—will naturally be drawn to you. Maybe
you can act; maybe you can draw; maybe you're a
hell of a good plumber. Everyone has a gift, and a
lesson to teach. **NO ONE IS A LOSER!!!**

The idea that there are people out there 'cool'
enough to read The Maxx, but still not 'cool' enough
to realize their own worth, really pisses me off. It is
sad that our society, with all its built-in stupidities,

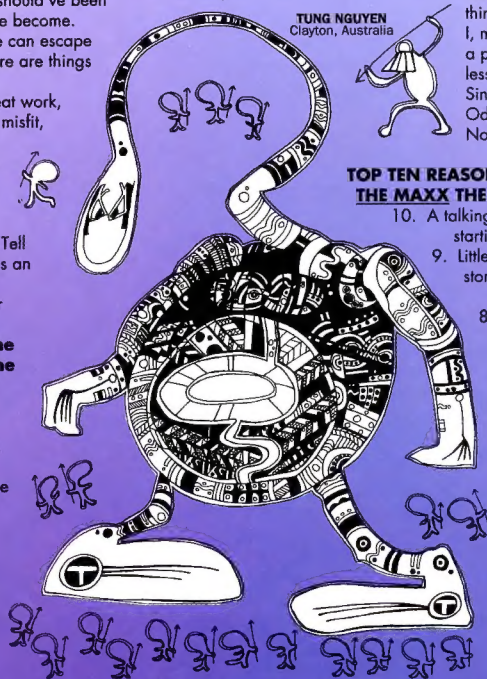
should allow such a
thing to happen.
I, myself, refuse to be
a part of such care-
less ugliness.
Sincerely,
Odes Odhner
Northampton, PA

TUNG NGUYEN
Clayton, Australia



TOP TEN REASONS THAT MAKE THE MAXX THE BEST COMIC

10. A talking head that is
starting to rot.
9. Little Isz getting
stomped on
and crushed.
8. The only comic
where you can
see a pregnant
girl throwing up
in a toilet.
7. It's not about
some wacko
hero with a
gun walking
around
shooting
people.
6. You can never
know what to
expect from
Sam Kieth in
the next issue
[ain't that
the truth!!].



5. See a paralyzed rabbit in a box get hit with a shovel (not suggested for people with weak stomachs!).
4. You can watch The Maxx cartoon without worrying if it's going to suck like most other comic-related cartoons [**you know it's going to suck**].
3. A boy gets his hand sawed off when it gets stuck in a portal to Pangaea.
2. See The Maxx share a dream with Sarah in bed.
And the #1 reason that makes The Maxx the best comic...
1. A giant, oversized rabbit stuck in a purple suit.
Your #1 Maxxhead
Louis Crisitello

Dear Sam,

Tell Bill the Gen 13/Maxx book was cool, but what was Maxx doin' in that kid's Outback?

See ya',
Brian Windsor
St. Charles, IL

Don't start pulling at the threads of that story, or the whole thing will fall apart!

Dear Sam (if that's your real name),

I want you to know that I don't believe you're human. How could someone as cool and creative as you be mortal. I believe you are a powerful alien being who is trying to dominate the human race under the guise of Sam Kieth. You plan to use the Image comic company to recruit human Maxxheads into your stellar army.

Your plan is working. You have entranced me. I will deliver all heathens who speak out against The Maxx to you. You will find them lying on your desk, bound and gagged, awaiting personal punishment.
Long live Sam Kieth, conqueror of worlds!

Jeff Lynch
Cuyahoga Falls, OH

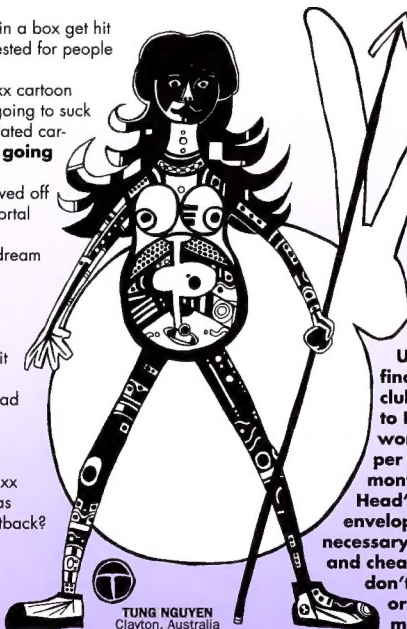
Turn off the TV, Scully. Someone's had a little too much X-Files this week.

Dear Sam Kieth,

Why don't you make a Maxx movie? That would be 'way groovy.

Peace and Harmony,
Dustin Armentrout
Rockford, IL

We do have a movie in development at Paramount. The key word here, though, is 'development,' which could last a while, so



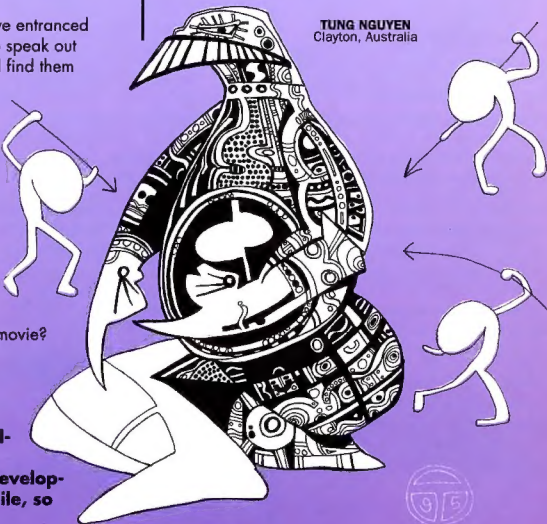
TUNG NGUYEN
Clayton, Australia

don't buy your popcorn yet. Bill and I are gonna have to come up with a really good script first...Any ideas?
P5/HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS WE GET ASKED ALL THE TIME: No subscriptions or retail sales available/sorry.

Use Head to Head to find back issues/fan clubs/whatever. Head to Head is free/25 words or less/one ad per person per month/write "Head to Head" on the envelope/no special form necessary/postcards are cool and cheap (like us). No we don't print all the letters or art we get/too many/yes we do

read them ALL/you might get answered or printed or edited/you might not/life's funny that way. B/w art has better chance of being published than color/can't return artwork/sorry. Keep 'em coming/the better the letters and submissions, the better the book!

TUNG NGUYEN
Clayton, Australia





DAVID LEUBA

Jouy-Le-Moutier, France

JOSH HOLMAN

Orem, UT